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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Plant Industry

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TO KILL ANTS IN LAWNS AND GOLF GREENS

Ants in lawns and golf greens may be controlled by applying material to suffocate them, or by use of a poison.

To suffocate the ants inject carbon bisulfide into the nests. This liquid volatilizes upon coming in contact with the air, the resulting gas being heavier than air sinks to the lowest parts of the nest killing all the occupants. Something should be placed over the nest to confine the gas until it has had a chance to sink into the nest. Apply the carbon bisulfide by means of a spring-bottom oil can. The fumes are explosive so keep away all lights and fires. Carbon bisulfide can be purchased from druggists, and usually comes in bottle-shaped tin cans containing 1 pint (one pound). Very large nests will require a pound or more for a complete kill.

Calcium Cyanide. A poison known as calcium cyanide is now on the market as a dust and granular form. In the presence of moisture this material gives off poisonous gas known as hydrocyanic acid gas. Under certain conditions applications of this material will give control of ants. It should be used as directed by the manufacturers. **Hydrocyanic acid is deadly to all forms of life hence it must at all times be used with care and kept from irresponsible persons.**

Tartar Emetic. Tartar emetic is a good slow poison for ants. It is fed to the ants by mixing it with honey or grease. For ants attracted by sweets mix 1 part of the poison with 20 parts of honey. Place the mixture in a tin can provided with a cover. A small amount is placed in the bottom of the can. Holes punched in the side of the can a little above the bottom provide easy entrance for the ants, and prevent bees, birds and other animals from reaching the bait.

For grease-loving ants mix the poison with any grease known to be attractive to ants in the same proportion as with honey and put out in the same type containers. Small trials should be made with the grease and honey to see which is attractive. The poison will be taken to the nest and fed to the young thus exterminating the whole colony.

Sodium Arsenite. Another slow poison is made as follows: Dissolve 5 pounds of sugar in 1½ pints of water by placing in a double boiler and heating gently. The sugar being dissolved, add one-fourth ounce of sodium arsenite (white arsenic) which has previously been dissolved in a little hot water. To apply this poison saturate a sponge with the mixture and place in tin cans as directed in the preceding paragraph. All baits should be moved from place to place on the lawn at intervals of two or three days.

Always keep poison baits out of the way of children and irresponsible persons.